

What is claimed is:

1. A method for creating a hand paintable panel with a set of indicia for guiding a user in painting over the panel to create a painted image, the method comprising:

providing an image in digital form into a memory in a programmable computer;

assigning pixel locations to the image;

assigning color or shade palette values to the pixel locations; and

printing, under the control of the programmable computer, indicia representing the color or shade palette values on a panel, so that a user paints over the indicia, using paints assigned to the indicia to create a hand-painted image on the panel.

2. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising the step of determining the presence of a group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values, defining a region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values and printing a single indicia at a single location within the region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values.

3. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising comparing color or shade palette values associated with the pixel locations, determining a number of contiguous pixel locations with similar color or shade palette values comparing the values, establishing a criteria for assigning a single character of indicia for the area of contiguous pixel location depending on the variation of color or shade palette values between adjacent pixels.

4. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising assigning font size to the color or shade palette in the font size corresponding to a brush size.

5. A method for creating a borderless hand paintable panel with a set of indicia for guiding a user in painting over the panel to create a painted image, the method comprising:

providing a photographic image;

creating an image in digital form from the photographic image and storing the digital form of the image in a memory in a programmable computer;

assigning pixel locations to the image with the use of the programmable computer;

using the programmable computer to assign color or shade palette values to the pixel locations; and

printing, under the control of the programmable computer, indicia representing the color or shade palette values on the

hand paintable panel panel, so that a user paints over the indicia, using paints assigned to the indicia to create a hand-painted image on the panel.

6. A method according to claim 5 and further comprising the step of determining the presence of a group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values, defining a region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values and printing a single indicia at a single location within the region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values.

7. A method according to claim 5 and further comprising comparing color or shade palette values associated with the pixel locations, determining a number of contiguous pixel locations with similar color or shade palette values comparing the values, establishing a criteria for assigning a single character of indicia for the area of contiguous pixel location depending on the variation of color or shade palette values between adjacent pixels.

8. A method according to claim 5 and further comprising assigning font size to the color or shade palette in the font size corresponding to a brush size.

9. A method for creating a borderless guide for creating images defined by hand placed colorants, the method comprising:

providing a digital description of an image;

assigning pixel locations to the image;

assigning color or shade palette values to the pixel locations;

selecting contiguous pixel locations of similar color or shade palette values and assigning a single palette value to an area covered by the contiguous pixel locations;

and

printing indicia representing the color or shade palette values on a surface, so that a user placing colorants over the indicia by hand creates an image that re paints over the indicia, using paints assigned to the indicia to create a hand-painted image on the panel.

10. A method according to claim 9 and further comprising the step of determining the presence of a group of pixels with

similar adjacent color or shade values, defining a region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values and printing a single indicia at a single location within the region generally coincident to the contiguous group of pixels with similar adjacent color or shade values.

11. A method according to claim 9 and further comprising comparing color or shade palette values associated with the pixel locations, determining a number of contiguous pixel locations with similar color or shade palette values comparing the values, establishing a criteria for assigning a single character of indicia for the area of contiguous pixel location depending on the variation of color or shade palette values between adjacent pixels.

12. A method according to claim 9 and further comprising assigning font size to the color or shade palette in the font size corresponding to a colorant proportion.